

# C.O.C.A. TIMES

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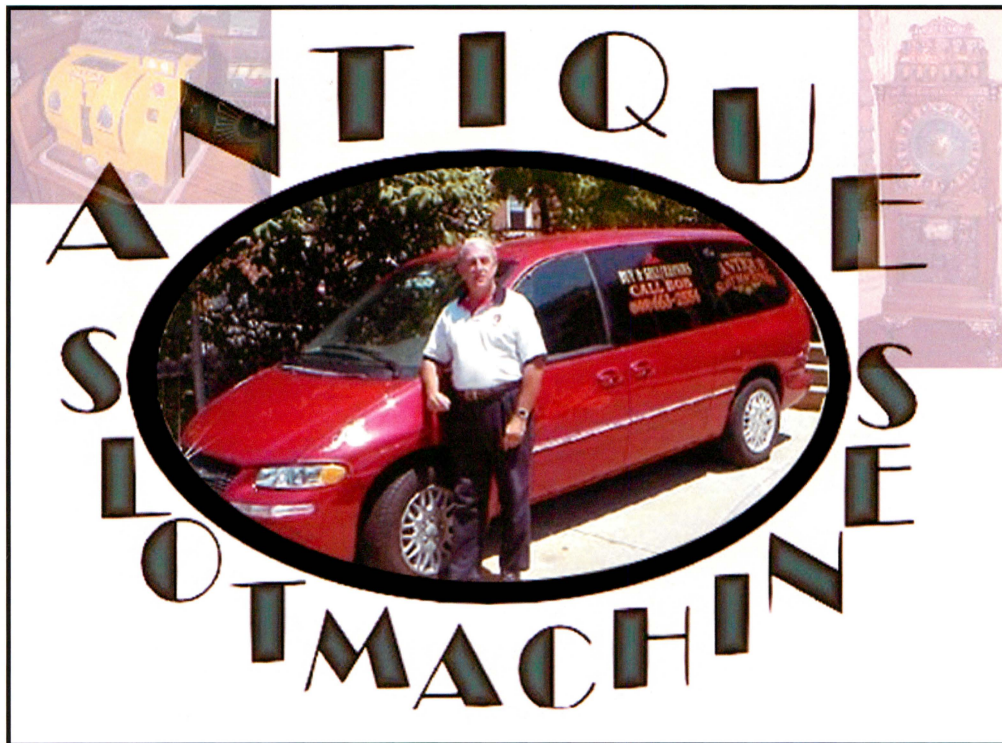
## Kenosha, Wisconsin



## Third Annual C.O.C.A. Summer Convention



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# C.O.C.A. TIMES

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## Message from Our President...

It has been a busy summer for COCA members. Our third annual convention was held in Kenosha, Wisconsin, followed by regional gatherings in Cleveland, Ohio; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Oklahoma City. I hope you were able to attend one or more of these events. We plan to continue providing opportunities for socializing, sharing information, and viewing members' collections. COCA is all about putting more excitement into coin-op collecting. Our next regional get together will be in Washington D.C., at the home of Jackie and Ken Durham (durham22@bellatlantic.net) on December 2, 2006. In case you haven't heard, our fourth annual convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, the weekend of July 27-28, 2007. Please contact me or Ken Durham if you would like to host a regional gathering in 2007.

Our last issue of COCA Times seems to have opened a can of reproduction worms. Several discussions ensued at the convention about replica machines. My spoof of "The Godfather" together with Sandy Lechtick's article on the merits of repros certainly got people talking. To those members who are purists and only want original machines, I apologize if my comments offended you in any way. My comments were not meant for anyone

to think that COCA supports the fraudulent selling of fake machines as originals. However, I do think it is important to recognize that there are reproductions out there. Like it or not, reproduction coin-op machines do exist, as do repros in all other fields of valuable collectables and antiques.

What can COCA do to help prevent fakes from becoming frauds? I think that COCA should create a list of all known reproductions and upgraded/altered originals. We know that there are several thousand bubble tube jukeboxes as well as hundreds of Whizballs out there. But what else is lurking at the next auction or show or E-bay sale? Perhaps we can help prevent a member from being bilked if we publish a list with some photos in the magazine and on our web site. The next and most important step is to make ourselves available to other members for purchase advice. Newer collectors need to seek out those that have the knowledge to identify a reproduction. Advanced, experienced collectors need to avail themselves to other members when they request advice. This knowledge sharing is one of the key reasons COCA was created. The combination of education and advice will help all of our members.

*continued on next page*

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Please e-mail your list of reproduction coin-ops to me at Bill@mebtel.net. Please put the word COCA in the subject bar so I will know the e-mail is not spam. You may also give me your list at the Chicago meeting. Perhaps these steps will reduce fraud and keep those that wish to own a reproduction at a lower price from paying too much for a "Fake McCoy". It will not stop the potential devaluation of the rare old original machine, but it may help us all know how to tell the difference.

Our next meeting will take place in Chicago on Friday, November 10, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at The Hilton across the street from the Expo Center. We have a full agenda and need your input to help keep COCA growing. There will be complimentary light snacks and a cash bar. Once again, there will be some great speakers and more roundtable discussions. Be sure you come, have some fun, and meet someone.

Bill Petrochuk  
COCA President



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## *Happy Holidays and Happy Hunting to All in 2007!*

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 10, 2007**

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# Third Annual C.O.C.A. Summer Convention

*by Bill Petrochuk, COCA President*

Say Cheese! More than 135 happy COCA members were all smiles the weekend of July 21-23 in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Our third annual convention was our biggest ever with more than 135 members and guests in attendance. Those that arrived early were treated to receptions at the homes of Marcy and Mark Ernster on Wednesday night, and Marsha and David Blau on Thursday night.

We kicked off the first official day of the convention on Friday at 2:00 p.m. and never stopped until Sunday evening. Friday's room-to-room selling lasted approximately three hours with quite a few fine pieces changing hands. Though there weren't many sellers, there were plenty of eager buyers available to snatch up bargains as well as a few seldom seen pieces of coin-op. Machines sold included a 19th century Malley Penny Drop, a Mills Bell Boy, Whirlwind Trade Stimulator, and a nice Little Duke. There were plenty of vending machines as well as a supply of old original coin-op literature for sale. A social hour, all you can eat banquet, and auction followed at 5:00 p.m. This was our biggest convention auction to date with all types of coin-op being offered and the vast majority being sold. The bids were called by professional auctioneer and member Jeff Scott. Auction assistants included Shelia Scott, Paul Hindin, Dan Davids, Denny Green, and many other helpful COCA members.

Saturday and Sunday we were welcomed into the homes of Frank Zygmunt, Jim Welytok, Paul Hindin, Jack Freund, Alan Sax, Fred Weigel, as well as Tom Taylor's warehouse full of pinball machines. Sincere thanks to all of you for the warm hospitality, refreshments, and great collection tours. Buses took us on Saturday night from the host hotel to historic Lake Geneva, where we enjoyed a fabulous dinner cruise complete with a Dixieland jazz band for dancing on the deck. Many of us also attended a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game and tailgate party on Monday, or were able to work in some time at the Italian Festival on the Lakeshore.

The weather could not have been better for such a perfect weekend. On behalf of all the members present, a heartfelt thank you to convention coordinators Paul Hindin and Marsha Blau and everyone on the committee that worked so hard to make this convention a success.

*See following pages for photos*

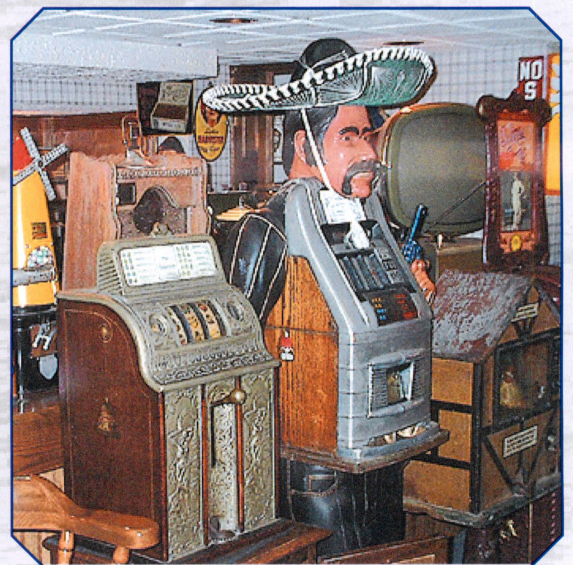








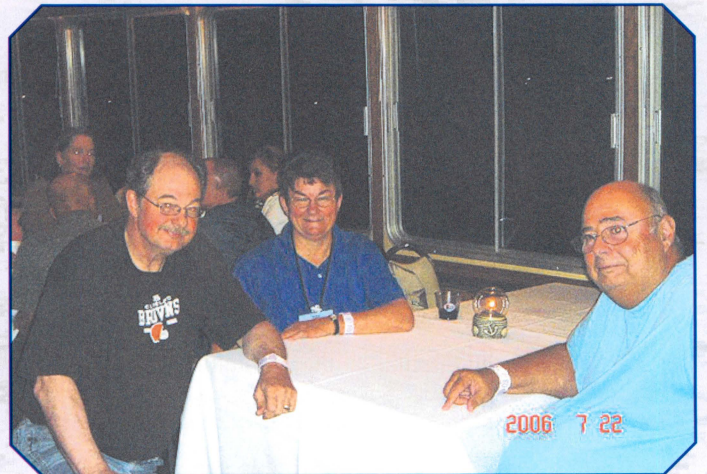


















# Hey Sailor, Wanna Treat?

by JOHN PETERSON

I am not recognized as a biblical scholar under normal circumstances but during my misspent youth I sat through enough confirmation classes to know that before Original Sin came Temptation. Temptation, the most basic building block of the human condition. Without it, churches would crumble, Las Vegas would tumble and Country music would put on their boots, pack the pickup truck, and slink out of town. Where would we be without temptation? I don't even want to think about it. Other than straight vending machines, most of the coin operated trade is built smack dab in the middle of temptation, and rightfully so. If you want to coax a few extra coins from the average Joe, what do you need to offer? The temptation of something for nothing, that's what! Or better stated, the illusion of something for nothing. Messrs. Mills, Caille, Jennings, Watling and many others made and lost fortunes turning out vast numbers of coin-operated marvels that could coax the coins out of old Ebenezer Scrooge himself. All you needed was the promise of a great sum for the investment of a small one. The main advantage that American games of chance had over their European cousins was the tremendous payout that accompanied our Lady Luck. The reward from the most conservative American slot machine was far more generous than anything offered in Europe at the time. This changed later when Europe loosened up their restrictions against gambling, but in the early days, Americans had the corner on temptation.

To compensate for this, the British decided to marry temptation to vice. The British laws prohibiting games of chance and the vigorous, although uneven, enforcement of them, forced the English coin-op manufacturers to offer only games of "skill" or "amusement." How then do you entice players to continue pumping in their hard earned coins if you are only offering another coin or two in return? Simple; you offer items that the players normally crave, items like candy or even better, cigarettes.

And so, another branch of British coin-op arose. Most of

the machines were in the allwin form like the game pictured in Photo A. Cleverly titled "Win A Cig," this very nice allwin was manufactured by Oliver Whales of Redcar, York in the 1940's. For the price

of one penny, you got the opportunity to win a single cigarette. The mechanism of the game is extremely well made and mostly of brass. Unlike the coin payout allwins that had a self-filling feature for the payout tube, these cigarette machines had to be monitored and replenished on a regular basis. A typical arcade would have rows of allwins lined up side by side. The vendors were intermixed with the coin games so it was easy for underage children to feed their smoking habit under the less than watchful eye of the operators. Most of these vending games are extremely hard to win so if you're currently trying to quit smoking, you really should purchase one of these cigarette allwins. Your frustration level will overcome your nicotine addiction in short order and you'll take up cursing instead.

Did I hear someone say "chocolate?" What an excellent idea! The other main line of items offered by the manufacturers of allwins was the ubiquitous candy bar. Some of the brands offered like "Aero Choc," "Polo Mint" or "Spangles" are unknown to the American market but there were also universal favorites like "Kit Kat." Photo B is a picture of two "Kit Kat" allwins from



Photo A



Photo B

my collection. Both of these machines were part of the Glenn Collection that I acquired in 2002. The backflash picture of the children romping on the countryside is a charming piece of pure whimsy. This particular machine also holds a strong attraction for me personally. In 1992 while living in Atlanta, I purchased my first British coin allwin. I had no idea at the time



what it was but I liked it. Shortly thereafter, Dearly Beloved, the two Jewels and I were standing in the foyer of a local Bennigans restaurant waiting for a table when I noticed a strange looking machine fastened to the wall. You've already guessed it; the machine was a British "Kit Kat" allwin. I was so enamored with it that I pursued every lead possible in my attempt to buy it from the restaurant. My quest temporarily ended when the advertising firm in New York that handled the decorating for all the Bennigans worldwide told me in no uncertain terms to buzz off. After that, I knew I could not live without one. And now I have two, Kit and Kat.



Photo C

One of the rarer vending allwins is shown in Photo C. There are several features that make this a special game. First, it is a "giant" allwin meaning that it is about 25% larger than normal. It was made by the well known firm British Manufacturing Company (BM Co.) in the 1930's. Named "Lucky Star," it is an auto-pay machine. If you examine the front of the game closely, you will see that there is no pay-out handle for activating the mechanism after you win. This game truly is an automatic pay-out machine. When you insert your coin into the top of the machine, you raise a lever that is held in place by a ratchet assembly. When your ball goes into one of the winning holes, that lever is released and it rotates the interior prize wheel, seen in Photo D, one space. The prize loaded in that space drops down the chute and out the front to the lucky player. Automatic payout allwins are quite rare and this particular model is very desirable. This specific game also has an emotional pull for me. I won it in an Ebay auction.

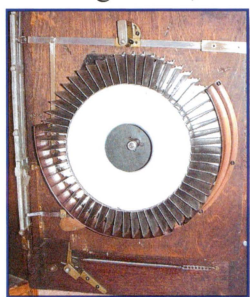


Photo D

As is often the case, I negotiated the privilege of picking up the game in person from the seller in Denver. I arranged the trip and took off from New York City early one morning with a short stop in Detroit. From Detroit, I was climbing out over Lake Michigan when Air Traffic Control ordered me to land immediately at Milwaukee. I spent the next four days awaiting permission to leave. I did not receive this game for another six months. The morning in question when I departed New

York City for Denver was September 11, 2001. I was one of the lucky pilots who took off from New York that morning.

Temptation, vice.....what's left? Why guns, of course! Why not combine our love of shooting with our love of gambling for smokes? From such brilliance comes the Mother-of-all vendors, "Auto Skill," (Photo E.) As with so many of the British games, there is no identifying signature on this game. My reference books do not list it either. American coin-op history is rife with competitors stealing ideas and designs from each another and this happened in Europe as well. There is a somewhat similar game called "Circle Skill" that was produced by the Germans. A British company also produced (or maybe just distributed) that same machine. My best guess is that one of these two companies produced "Auto Skill." Whoever did has my undying gratitude for bringing to market one of the all-time certain cures for the temptation of nicotine. It looks so simple, which is the hallmark of a great game. You insert a large British penny into the holder on top of the pistol, aim at one of the three smokestacks inside the case and fire away. If your coin drops down the hole, the coin releases the respective drawer and you win a packet of 10 cigarettes. The gun is about as accurate as tossing an egg out the window of a car going 80 miles per hour in hopes of hitting a small mailbox (not that I ever did that, mind you) so you get a rough idea of the operator's return on investment. This is one tough machine to beat. But then, if you hang out with the gun toting, cigarette smoking crowd, you're one pretty tough cookie yourself! Wait! Cookie dispensing allwins, you say? Now you're pulling my leg, you little temptress!



Photo E

So ends our short trip through the field of temptation. Next time we might take a look at an interesting early marriage between sight and sound or we might not. Stay tuned. Until then, may I bum a smoke? Better not say "No." I may be out of pennies but I have a gun!

*POSTSCRIPT: Are you tempted to make my day? Feel free to fire away at [jp4@charter.net](mailto:jp4@charter.net) or you may call me at (952) 891-2312. Cheers!*



# THE CADILLAC'S

by JOHNNY DUCKWORTH

Well, we have all heard collectors say that the Caille's were the Cadillac's of the floor machines with their large ornate coin heads and their fancy castings. I know there are some collectors that will disagree but everyone will have to agree if they were Cadillac's, the Caille Lone Star and "45" would have been displayed on the show room floor right next to the slant fronts. These two floor machines have not turned up in great numbers over the years and only a handful of each remain so they are a treasured center piece for any collector.

When you see a Caille Lone Star or "45" for the first time you may notice the same cabinet design as the Big Six, Eclipse, & Centaur, but look beyond the cabinet style



would then be fitted with antique, nickel, or gold castings. The large and ornate Caille 6-way coin head came in the nickel, quarter, and half dollar denomination.

They also had the option to be equipped with a music box which would call for an overhead wind since they were a front pull machine. Caille's overhead wind music in their floor machines consisted of a 6 screw comb next to a nine inch cylinder and equipped with an "on-off" hole in the side of the cabinet where a key is inserted to turn off the music. They had the Jacots patent device on



and it all changes from there. The most unique or big difference would be the color wheels with only 45 spaces opposed to 90, 92, or 120 which are on the other Caille machines, excluding the Big Six which had 12 or 36 depending on the model. They were designed without the use of bugs or cheats and were made to give the operator an edge of 30% in his favor. Like most of the other models in the Caille line up the cabinets were made out of quarter sawn oak or birch and stained to look like mahogany which

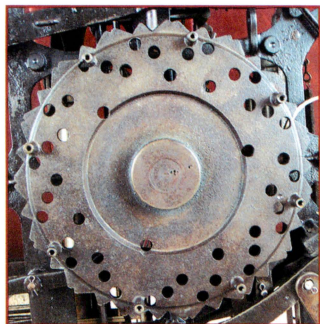
the music which stopped any runaways or damage to the teeth and pins. Most all of the music cylinders used in the Caille Floor machines are Mermod Freres which are a very high grade music cylinder player.

The color wheel machines of the time had what looked like a large gear with a hole design drilled into it. This gear would appear in front of the color wheel, i.e. Eclipse, Big Six, Centaur, Detroit, or behind the color wheel, i.e. Lone Star and "45". Other Caille machines which have the stopping gear behind the

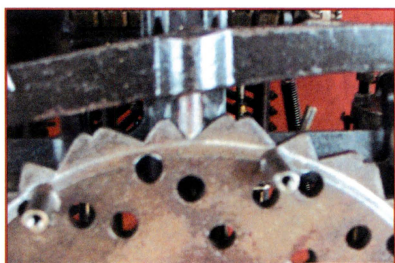




wheel are the “Puck” and the “Black Cat.” Every notch on the edge of the gear corresponds to a color on the wheel and this geared wheel functions much like the



reel discs on the three reel machines. Pins pass through the holes into the gear and if that color has been played, then it trips the pay slides. The “Lone Star” and “45”



were slightly different and if you could magically see thru the color wheel you would observe that the gear with the holes has different size notches on the edge. The lower payouts had large notches for an overwhelming house advantage and all the other notches on the gear continue to get smaller as the payouts grow higher. You can see (in the photo of the gear) the small notches on the edge which represent the larger payouts and it would take a lot of lady luck to hit.

If you look close at the color wheels on the Lone Star and “45” you will see they have the same color pattern and look the same but look again. The “45” would actually spin in the cabinet so the pay out numbers on the color wheel had to be printed to read at the top of the machine. This was not the case with the Lone Star since

it was a stationary wheel, and all the pay out numbers had to face up around the entire wheel. Both machines retain the same notched gear and basically the same 45 spaced color wheel but with the Lone Star you have to add that large bronze arrow which spins with the hub to land on a color since the wheel is stationary.

Some of the very early color wheels for Caille were hand painted on their machines but beware as some wheels have been repainted over the years and if so, you may need to dig a little deeper to substantiate the authenticity of the machine. Most all the machines you will find should have the tin litho wheels with the exception of those very few original painted wheels that still survive.

The Lone Star machine has a glass star in the center of the wheel, which on an early machine, will have studs mounted on the back of the glass to hold it in place. The later models were held on with ornate claw feet which mounted on the wheel around the edge of the glass. The glass on the Caille “45” has turned up in two different styles with one spelling out Caille 45 and the other with a large “45” in the center of the glass and the trademark in the bottom.



The Caille Lone Star and Caille 45 were produced from 1906 up into the late teens and are so fascinating to watch and play. I think what attracts most of us to these great cold coin-op machines is the pure history and imagination of where the machine was in the early hay days and the journey it has traveled to get to us today.



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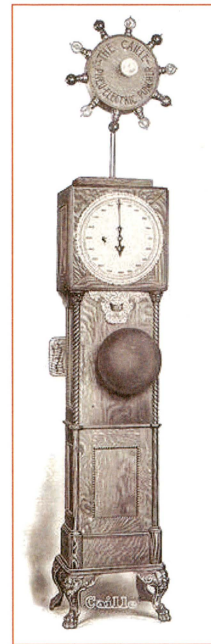
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"RED TOP" LIFTER  
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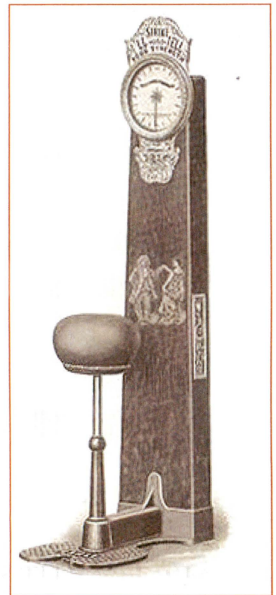
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UPRIGHT PERFECTION  
Poker Machines  
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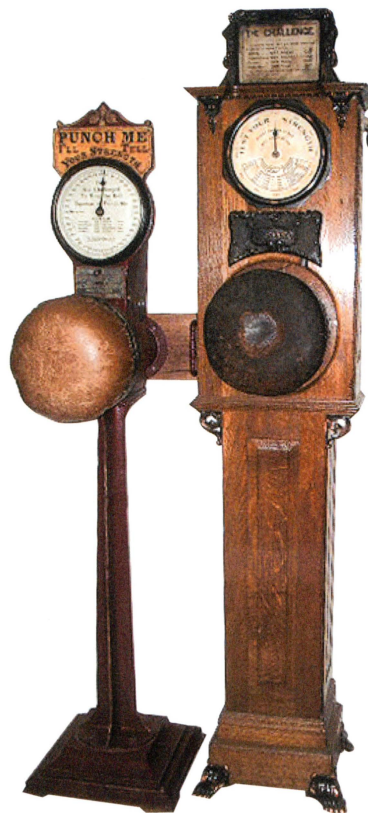
MILLS OWL JR.  
Side Handle Pay-Out  
circa 1904



CLAWSON 3 JACKPOT and  
CRACKERJACK Pay-Out  
circa 1893



PLANTERS  
MR. PEANUT Scale  
circa 1950's?



MARSHFIELD and F.W.  
MILLS Punchers  
circa 1902



Animated Cast Iron  
Chocolate Vender  
Made in Germany  
circa 1900



CAILLE  
MICKEY FINN  
Rope Pull Strength  
Test, circa 1904



# “IT WAS 20 YEARS AGO TODAY”

Well, that may sound like part of a Beatles song from St. Peppers, but 20 years ago, we all probably thought prices couldn't get much higher. Oh, if we only had a time machine! The following prices were from the 16th Roy Arrington Victorian Casino Auction held on November 7, 8 & 9, 1986 in Las Vegas. An 8% buyers premium was charged on all lots, ahh, the good ole days!! The auction featured many slot machines, and trade stimulators from the Jack Williams Collection along with the usual mix of advertising, scales, gum vendors, cash registers, etc. etc. Bidding was spirited and the hobby was alive and well. So take a step back in time and revisit some of the wonder years of our hobby. Does that mean we can all enjoy similar increases in our collections in another decade or two? Sorry, the crystal ball is on loan right now, but chances are they will.

Caille Double Floor “Centaur” Upright.....	\$18,250.00
Sun Mfg. “The Bicycle” .....	2,750.00
Silver King Hot Nut Vendor .....	160.00
Orange Crush Syrup Dispenser.....	225.00
Exhibit Supply Punching Bag.....	750.00
“The Kelley” Gum Vendor Trade Stimulator.....	1,300.00
Original Mills “Jockey” Trade Stimulator .....	1,950.00
Original Mills “Owl” Upright Slot .....	4,700.00
Mills 5 cent High Top Slot.....	675.00
Clawson “Automatic Dice” Machine.....	3,000.00
Bally Double Bell (5 cent and 25 cent) Slot .....	1,850.00
Regina Upright Changer .....	6,500.00
Fey Midget Trade Stimulator .....	750.00
Watling Double Upright with Music (only 1 known).....	24,000.00
Jennings Little Duke Slot with Side Vendor .....	1,600.00
Mills Dewey Upright Slot with Music.....	8,000.00
Mills “Little Perfection” Trade Stimulator .....	550.00
Mills Castle Front with Side Vendor and Skill Stops .....	1,600.00
Rock-Ola Official Sweepstakes Trade Stimulator .....	600.00
Victor Cigar Wheel Trade Stimulator .....	700.00
Restored Oak Barber Chair.....	1,000.00
Restored Carousel Horse.....	1,050.00
Mills Horsehad “Bonus” Slot.....	1,700.00
Mills 5 cent “Checkboy” Trade Stimulator.....	4,000.00
Jennings Restored “Standard Chief” 5 cent Slot.....	1,000.00
Mills “Duplex” 5 cent Slot Machine.....	15,000.00
“Clock” 5 center Trade Stimulator.....	650.00
Wurlitzer Model 1015 Restored.....	6,200.00
8-Day Advertising Clock with Etched Glass .....	200.00
Cretor’s Counter Top Peanut and Popcorn Machine .....	675.00



# EIGHTEEN YEARS AND 10,000 JUKEBOXES LATER

Frank Zygmunt saw his first jukebox when he attended a party at the ages of 16. It was in a basement at a private residence in Chicago. "It caught my eye," admitted Zygmunt, but he never thought that first meeting would lead him to become the world's largest distributor of Wurlitzer jukeboxes.

Eighteen years ago he took a chance and ordered a half container of Wurlitzer Model 1015 - One More Time, thinking he might be able to sell in a few months the 20 units the container held.

He sold all 20 in 3 days, and from there he hasn't looked back. The 10,000th OMT recently left the premises of his Zygmunt & Associates 10,000 sq. ft. store-front/warehouse located 30 miles west of Chicago in Westmont, Illinois.

**Zygmunt has sold jukeboxes to a Princess of Malaysia, Mike Ditka, Burt Reynolds, Ann Rice, and Oprah Winfrey, just to name a few.**

A Wurlitzer 1015-OMT would go for around \$4,000 eighteen years ago. Today that price is up to around \$8,000, but Zygmunt notes they are a wonderful, well-made product; very durable and retain their value. He knows of people who have re-sold theirs for more than they originally paid.

The furthest he has ever shipped a jukebox - at a cost of \$1,600 - was to Australia.

It's a 12-hour day, seven-days a week business for Zygmunt and his son, Frank, Jr. They can be reached by calling 630-985-2742 or by going to their website: [ZygmuntOnline.com](http://ZygmuntOnline.com).



*Frank Zygmunt Jr. and Frank Zygmunt*

## Just How Huge a Figure is 10,000 OMT's?

- It's 250 semi-loads.
- You would have to un-crate, test, re-crate and ship 1 OMT each morning and 1 OMT each afternoon, 5 days a week for over 19 years to fill the orders.
- Would fill 126 two-car garages.
- Would cover the playing field of Soldier field (home of the Chicago Bears) plus both end zones.
- When lined up side by side they would stretch 5 miles down Interstate 80.

The Zygmunts have set a jukebox sales record, for one model, that will never be broken by any other jukebox distributor!



# VENDING GLOBES AND PARTS

## New Globes:

Acorn 6, 8, 9, 11 pound .....	\$30
Advance Small Football.....	\$40
Advance Large Football .....	\$40
Bluebird Large.....	\$55
Climax 10 .....	\$75
Columbus #8 with Star.....	\$45
Columbus #8 No Star.....	\$50
Columbus #9 with Star.....	\$50
Columbus #9 No Star.....	\$55
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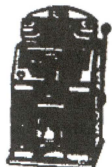
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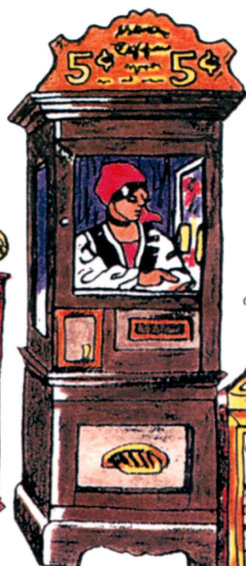
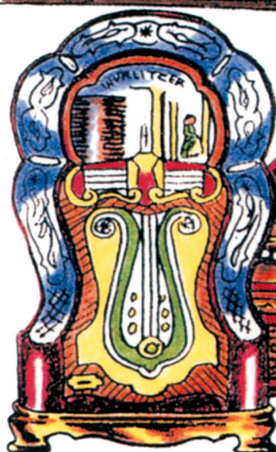
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# TALES OF THE HUNT

by Jack Freund

*Our first "Tale" comes from Jimmy Rosen, Duncannon, PA.*

## "GIVE ME STRENGTH"



For the last 15 years, I've been running one of our family businesses, the Old Sled Works, a unique antique and craft market filled with over 125 vendor spaces. In addition, there is an operating 1950's soda fountain and old time amusement arcade tucked away inside this 20,000 sq ft facility.

Located in Duncannon, PA, the Old Sled Works was formerly the Standard Novelty Works sled factory, a business my father owned and ran since the late 1960's. (It began in 1904 and he was only the 2nd owner). He produced the old-fashioned wood and metal runner sleds under the Lightning Guider trade name. Due to the declining demand for the traditional sled through-

out the 1980's, the plant was closed officially in 1990.

I took over in 1991 and turned the facility into its present form, a retail antique and craft mall. About the same time I was becoming interested in older arcade machines and thought it would be fun to include my collection in the business for customers to enjoy. (Thanks to Marvin Yagoda and Dick Bueschel for inspiring me.) Currently there are over 60 machines in the complex, with dates ranging from the 1920's through the mid-70's. Pins, rifle games, driving games, movie machines, grip testers, bowlers, etc.

Some of my acquisitions have come from walk-in customers roaming around the market and asking who



the owner is because they have something that might fit in. More times than not, the item they want to sell me (or just give to me) isn't really worth adding to the place. But that changed last October. My fantastic find was about to happen.

A gentleman came in to the Old Sled Works when I wasn't there and told my manager that he had a coin-operated machine that I might be interested in. He left his name and number and a blurry photocopy of himself standing alongside several items including this machine. It looked like a short grandfather's clock which really didn't excite me initially. As a courtesy, I called the man and asked him about his item. He proceeded to tell me that he pulled this 1 cent machine and some other antiques out of a damp restaurant basement near Hershey, PA. He said it was a strength tester and it was apparently made by the "CB" company" because those were the letters in some of the ornate nickel castings. Nickel castings? "CB" company? 1 cent? Sounded interesting.

We made arrangements to meet at his place the next day. I wasted no time since I found out he was an antique dealer and perhaps he would offer the machine to someone else if I didn't express real interest. When I got to his house, he led me to his garage. As the door was opening, I felt like a kid getting ready to open a big birthday present. However, disappointment came over my face when in front of me was this entire machine, completely dismantled, and laying on the floor in pieces. "I was going to restore this myself but lost interest" he admitted to me. "I know how it goes back together"

he said when he saw that I was losing interest.

I looked over the pile of old oak and metal pieces for awhile, everything neatly arranged. "What do you want for it, as is" I asked. He hesitated briefly and then said "\$250 fair?"

"Let's box it up, I'll take a chance." I gave the man the money, loaded up and left. On the 20 minute drive home, it dawned on me. I realized "CB" was short for Caille Brothers. And after a few days of research, I discovered that in fact it was a c.1910 floor model Caille Mascot, combination grip and lung tester. Rough but definitely restorable.

When I had time, I attempted to re-assemble the cabinet and mechanism. Did a pretty good job, thanks to some pictures that Jim Grimwade sent me of his machines. Interestingly, I had never seen one of these machines before in my life and over the next several months I have seen probably 4 or 5 different ones! And a few have sold at auction...WOW! At \$250, I think I did alright.

Currently, it is being put back together and repaired by a professional furniture restorer from my area. I didn't want to screw it up! I'm not having a full blown restoration job done, I like it in its original condition and finish. When complete, I plan on displaying it in my father's office as he owns the office building across the street from the Old Sled Works where he and I work everyday. The daily sight of the machine will remind me that there could be other treasures out there.

*Another story on next page*



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*Second "Tale" is told by Shawn Flock, Hesperia, MI*



## VELVET MINT GUM VENDOR

As serious collectors we all visit as many antique stores, rummage sales, garage sales, estate sales, etc. as we can. Most of the time we leave these places empty handed, now and then we find a little something to take home with us, and once in a great while we get to come home with a real treasure that "makes our year". Personally I don't have much time to go hunting for treasures. I don't travel much, and my two young kids keep my wife and I very busy so I don't get to auctions and antique stores as much as I'd like. Even with my limited time for searching I was recently lucky enough to be on the receiving end of a great, previously undiscovered find.

The story starts with a phone call on a Wednesday night from a friend that sometimes shares a booth with my father and me at a general antique show. Our friend sometimes finds a coin-op piece in his travels and calls me to see what it is and if I want to buy it. He has found a couple of common pieces in the past but nothing out of the ordinary. This time was very different. He e-mailed me a picture that night and when I opened the picture I almost fell out of my chair. He had found not one but two extremely rare Velvet Mint Gum Vendors. For those of you who do not know what a Velvet Mint is, let me just say that there is probably only a hand full known to exist. The chance to own one would be amazing and the chance to own two is a once in a lifetime

opportunity. They are so scarce that only one other collector that I have talked to has ever seen one. All they know is that there is at least one other out there because it is pictured in *Silent Salesman Too*. With that being said, I replied to his e-mail with the following message "Don't show them to anyone; don't tell anyone about them; I want them. CALL ME IMMEDIATELY!!!".

When he called, he told me the story of how he found them. He had been waiting for years to get the chance to do an estate sale for an elderly woman that he knew. When he finally got the chance to do the sale he went to the house to go through it and see what was there. While going through the main level of the house the family members told him that he should go up to the attic because they thought there were a couple of old kerosene lanterns up there that should go in the sale. The picture shows what he saw when he went to the attic. He knew right away that they were gum machines and that he needed to call me and find out what they were. He asked the family members if he could sell them before the sale if he could get a better price than he thought he could in the sale. Luckily for me they agreed. I knew before he called that I was going to buy them, I just didn't know how much I was going to have to pay. I asked him what the price was, his response was "I don't know, make me an offer". This of course sent numbers reeling through my mind. I thought for a few seconds, taking into consideration the rarity of the machines, and the scarcity of funds in my bank account, and came back with a number. There was a long pause on the other end of the line; I don't think that he was expecting a number with that many digits. He said that it would be a deal but I had to look at them and make sure that I was happy before money changed hands. I asked how soon I could come and pick them up.

I drove the three hours to meet him that Sunday. On the way down to meet him, many things went through my mind. I still didn't have any more information



about the machines than I could see in the picture that he sent. I knew they were rare but did they work, were the globes cracked, were there any dents or splits in the bodies or lids, how good was the plating under all of the dirt? When I finally got there and inspected them, I was floored by the amazing quality. They both worked well, had nice decals, and the condition of the plating was incredible for machines that were almost 100 years old. He asked me if I was happy with them and my answer of course was "I'm thrilled". So I paid him and packed my prizes in the car and the rest is history.

I hope that every reader of this article gets to have the overwhelming feeling of excitement and nervous tension at least once in their lifetime that I felt when I made this incredible find. At times we all get frustrated, believing for sure that there is nothing great left to be uncovered. I can't speak for the arcade, slot, or trade stimulator venues but I am here to tell the vending collectors that there is still incredible stuff to be discovered. To all of those collectors that think there is nothing left out there worth searching for, keep looking. You never know what is hiding in the attics of America.

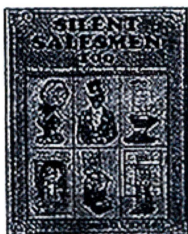
*These are the last two Tales I have received since the last issue was published, so, once again, it will be the last Tale Of the Hunt unless I receive something from YOU!*

*Send tales to: Jack Freund, PO Box 4, Springfield, WI 53176 or e-mail it to JBGUM@msn.com*

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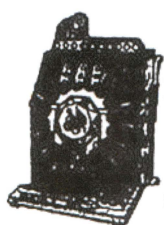


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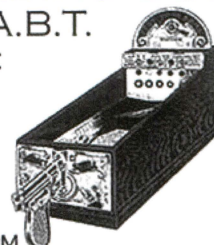
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# NATIONAL NOVELTY SCALE Circa 1902

by JIM and MERLYN COLLINGS



Photo 1

The National Novelty scale from 1902 does differ from the earlier scale, as it has a round pipe-like column partially decorated with a 14-inch filigree embossment, (photo 2).



Photo 2



Photo 3

It also differs from its predecessor by having "lion" feet near the rear of the base, (photo 3). The "lion" feet help to stabilize the scale. Notice in photo 3 that there are three rare vending machines on top of the bookcase. From left to right: the Caille 1907 Model B Perfect Vendor peanut machine, the "Chicago" peanut machine and the Caille 1905 Model A peanut machine. All three of these machines are copper-flashed as is the National Novelty scale.

The National Novelty scale was painted with different color combinations throughout the years. Its original color was probably silver. The scale is 72-inches in height. The base measures, 13-1/2-inches wide by 25-inches deep. The marquee is 7-1/2-inches high and says: Your Correct Weight One Cent. When a penny is inserted, the dial indicator "jumps" to the correct weight of the patron. Directly below the head is a plain flat area for attaching vendor information or for advertising. Often times, the space was painted over, (photo 4).



Photo 4

As mentioned earlier, the dial is paper-faced over tin. Around 1910 many of the National dials or faces were porcelainized. This original dial reads: National Novelty Co. Minneapolis, Minn. Included are the height and weight charts near the middle of the dial. The dial indicator has a three-leaf

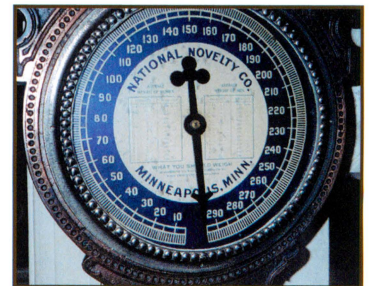


Photo 5

clover at the opposite end of the pointer. The weight limit is 295. The bezel surrounding the face or dial has a wonderful beaded design, (photo 5). This scale design certainly influenced the later 1910 Mills "Standard" Weighing scale (refer to C.O.C.A. Times, Vol. 4, Issue 3 - July 2004).



Photo 6

The beaded footplate on this National scale reads: Made by National Novelty Co. Mpls. Minn., (photo 6).

This National Novelty scale shows how changes had evolved at the turn of the century. This entire scale from top to bottom is a great example of early Americana.

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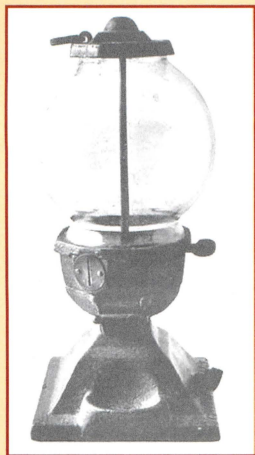
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# COLUMBUS DAY

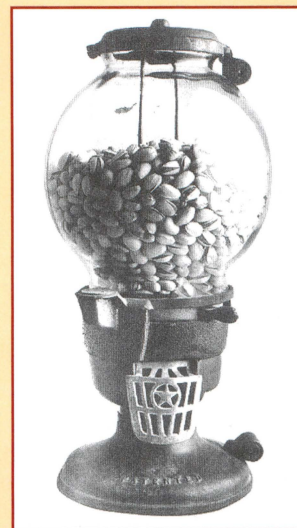
By the Late Ken Rounds



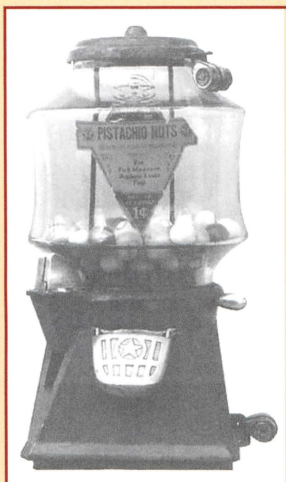
Columbus breath pellet vendor, circa 1909. 11 1/2 inches tall, square with angles, globe is same as those used on old gas burners. Vends 1 cent portions. Photo shows painted red with gold pin-striping. Popular in bars. Very few surviving working models. Expensive, tough to obtain.



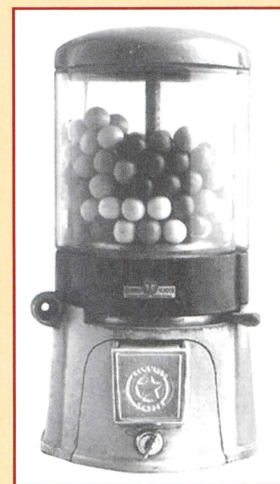
Columbus Tri-Mor. Three compartment vendor, front section extended and two end sections slightly back, circa 1938. Came in a variety of colors. Not often seen or available these days. Main distributor, Hecht Nielsen, 1322-26 Congress St., Chicago. The company was instrumental in persuading Columbus to create the Bi-Mor and the Tri-Mor vendors.



The COLUMBUS BD - Long Gate, circa 1910, painted red and black. Operates with a deep vend pocket for 5 cents. Lone Star, flap gate, original number 9 round globe. Shows the double circle, lone star, embossing with the word "Registered". The decal is original. A rare vendor, I estimate less than 30 exist today.



Columbus model JM, circa 1933. First Columbus to use the rare number 10 globe. Cast iron except drop gate, vend wheel and chute. Square base, one corner has deep cut casting groove with a half-moon slug rejector built in. The vend wheel has three flex plates to prevent clogging of pistachios. Only three or four known to exist. Original pistachio decal. Painted red or green porcelain.



Model MJJ. The last Columbus, all aluminum. Final Columbus vendor, early 1960's. Quite rare mainly due to operating problems and recall. A tough machine to find.

In conclusion, I have presented some of the more rare Columbus vendors. There are several other Columbus vendors classified as rare, not included. I hope, however, all the foregoing helps to acquaint readers with a portion of the more rare and desirable Columbus Vendors. They were in business about 52 years. Wow, what a company!



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